

The Dead Horse

January 2010

DISPATCH

A newsletter by and for the volunteers of Dead Horse Ranch State Park

DHRSP Christmas Party!



The Clauses handed out candy packages and coloring books and crayons to kids at the party. Here Cassidy Christianson accepts her book.



Mrs. Santa Claus joined Santa (aka Sharon and Gary Munson) to listen to the wishes of Wyatt Swiger, son of Ranger Justin Swiger and his wife, Melinda.



Little Kelsey Christianson wasn't afraid of Santa, as long as Daddy (George Christianson) was nearby.



Karlee Swiger seemed a bit unsure about the jolly elf, but she bravely sat on his lap. She is the daughter of Ranger Justin and Melinda Swiger.



(above) Who can be counted on to be first in line when the chow bell rings? Ranger Randy Victory, second from left, has no problem answering the call. Volunteer Laurie Blitsch, left, placed a close second. At right, Ranger Linda Hauk checks the table. She and her husband, Randall, provided the location for the party, Randall's Restaurant.

(left) Les Bovee, tries to commandeer the lasagna scoop from volunteer Maryan Pharo in the chow line. In the back, Bill Bean, Jim Harris and Norm Hephner patiently (?) await their turn.



Randall Hauk, owner of Randall's Restaurant, puts finishing touches on the food table for the Christmas party. The Randalls provided meatless and meat lasagna, along with salad, rolls and beverages, as well as helping decorate and set up for the party.



In lieu of a gift exchange at the Christmas party this year, rangers and volunteers chose to put donations in this brightly colored jar (see upper left) for the Verde Valley Children's Fund. Enough was donated to clothe three children in the Verde Valley. Thanks everyone!

all pictures & stories submitted by Nan Hephner

Christmas cont.

(right) The newest member of the Buzonas family, Nathan, born Nov 7, 2009.



Joan Gray, left, chats with Keith and Judi Mangels, and Keven Ward.



Dear DHRSP, We stayed 4 nights in one of the camping cabins. On arrival, Ranger Eric Buzonas was more than helpful and informative. Throughout our stay, the Cabin Hosts and other Park Volunteers (Dave) delivered a warmth and welcomeness that you normally don't receive in business, let alone from a government entity. In a time when our government seems to do more to take from and limit us, it was refreshing to receive such service. They reminded me that the Park belongs to all of us and is administered by the state. They should be commended. My sincerest thanks and, because of them, I will return to DHRSP and other State Parks. Kip Thompson

October Potluck



Bill Warner (as well as a lot of the other volunteers) jumped right into the clean-up job, as a way of helping the Randalls get their restaurant back in shape for the breakfast crowd.

Jack and Robbie Bard, left, and Frank and Rose Larramore, right, were honored for their summer service at the farewell potluck held at Randall's Restaurant at the end of October. In the background are Volunteer Coordinator Eric Buzonas, Dead Horse Manager Les Bovee, Aria Christianson. That's correct!! Robbie and Rose received flowers and Jack & Frank both received complimentary toilet bowl brushes. photos by Ranger Linda Hauk

Dear Randy: Personally, as well as on behalf of Boy Scout Troop 30 of Phoenix, AZ, I would like to thank you and all the staff at DHRSP for the awesome Mountain Bike program you put together for us this past Saturday! Adults and youth alike were totally engaged by your dynamic training, interleaved with practical application, on the course. You covered an amazing breadth of material – mountain bike mechanics, climbing approaches and techniques, downhill strategies, sand navigation, bicycling history, safety and etiquette – without ever losing anyone's attention. That's quite the feat in itself! Your credentials as a professional racer, your infectious enthusiasm and your method of imparting useful knowledge in a very hands-on way make you a very inspirational and effective teacher.

Our Scouts were unanimous in describing the Mountain Bike course as both seriously challenging and a total blast! Everyone agreed that they had an amazing experience: the trek was truly exhilarating. Many cited the Staircase as the most exciting part of the trek and a few proudly described clean (or almost clean) descents on some of the other tricky sections. Everyone agreed that the Sand Slalom was pure fun. I wish you could have heard the excitement in the boys' voices as they talked about their day back in camp. The program was an adventure they will not soon forget. A lot of the guys said they want to come back and do it again!

I should add that the adults were completely impressed, not only with the breadth and excitement of the Mountain Bike program, but with the cleanliness and facilities of the Raven Loop site as well as the helpfulness and friendliness of the Park Staff and Camp Hosts. We were completely delighted with our experience and hope others take advantage of this great site and your outstanding Mountain Bike program! We invite you to visit us at our web page where our recent activities are posted on our outings www.troop30.net/outings and where photos of last Saturday's adventure are posted to Shutterfly <<http://troop30.shutterfly.com/1640>>.

With thanks and best regards,
Annette Heinemeyer
BSA Troop 30
Grand Canyon Council
Phoenix, AZ



"Bike Safety: Cycling's 7 Deadly Myths": a class Ranger Randy Victory delivered to Yavapai County Health Department in conjunction with their "Safe Routes To School" (SR2S) program. This was essentially a "train the trainers" class. SR2S was one of the educational programs he helped lobby for during his three trips to Washington DC (the 2008 transportation bill, which took 4 years to hammer out). Later that day, he drove down to Phoenix to teach a similar class for Amerischools. At the end of the day Randy was privileged to attend the Cottonwood City Council Meeting when the Cottonwood Bike Plan (he helped formulate) was passed after two years of work. Randy said, "It was a good day!"

Ranger Christianson is Moving On!



Former Assistant Manager George Christianson was honored for all his work at Dead Horse. He and his family are moving to Lyman Lake State Park this month, where George is the manager. Les Bovee (left), DHRSP manager, presented the Christiansons with two paintings of scenes in the park, done by artist Elizabeta Vujkovic (insert). Volunteers contributed to a fund to have the paintings nicely framed.



Lyman Lake. Actual moving day was Dec 12. Audra and the girls will be staying on in one room of the house until the girls are out of school for Christmas vacation, using bedrolls, according to oldest daughter, Meaghan. (right) Kelsey Christianson got her first golf cart ride as she went to spend some time with volunteer Nan Hephner on the afternoon of packing day. Mom got her bundled up and ready for the chilly trip. Kelsey spent the morning entertaining another volunteer, Maryan Pharo. submitted by Nan Hephner



(left) Several volunteers and friends turned out Friday, Dec 11, to help George and Audra Christianson and family load the U-Haul for their move to

FYI: Elizabeta Vujkovic

Elizabeta Vujkovic experienced WWII as a child in Europe. She and her family were captured by the Germans, escaped and ... well, it's a very involved story, according to Park Manager Les Bovee. The years after the war were almost as bad as the war years. The Russians picked up where the Germans left off. Manager Bovee said, "I've encouraged her to record her memories and I think she has started." She always wanted to paint, but wasn't able to start until she was in her 60s (she's now 72). She has exhibited in galleries in Europe as well as the US.

submitted by Les Bovee

Volunteer Sharon Munson Ties with Dale Earnhardt JR!



As most of you know, when not volunteering at Dead Horse Ranch State Park, Sharon Munson can often be seen following Dale Earnhardt JR and the NASCAR circuit. Well it appears that this year Sharon took her passion a step further and drove her volunteer golf cart right on to the Phoenix International Raceway during a nationally televised event.

"It was totally unexpected," states Gary Munson. "I knew that Dale Earnhardt JR is her all-time favorite racer, but this was way over the top! I'm watching the race and then all of a sudden there's my wife screaming: 'I love you Dale! I've got your back!' And off she went. She plowed over a popcorn vendor and shot out onto the track. I didn't think her golf cart could go that fast. It was a white blur! Needless to say it caused quite a ruckus with the fans!"

According to golf cart repair man Bill LaFleur, "I knew something was awry with her cart. Sharon kept telling me that she needed more golf cart batteries, as they kept burning up. Well it turns out that they weren't burning up; Sharon was stockpiling them at her campsite. She was saving them to add more juice for the race."

Sharon Munson amassed 16 batteries in all, rewired the cart's electrical circuitry and was able to gain enough horsepower to tie for 1st place with Earnhardt.

Mr. Earnhardt was so taken back by the gesture that he let her keep the trophy. If anyone wants to see it, it's on display at the DHRSP Contact Station until April 30th.

story submitted by Ranger Eric - photo by Nan Hephner

Co-hosting in Quail Loop this winter are Carolyn and Wes Scott, whose home is in Cortez, CO, when not in other parks. Their traveling companion is the wiggly and friendly Quigley, a miniature Australian Shepherd. He recently ate a bunch of cookies, and Carolyn had quite a time cleaning up the mess. He was on a sugar high that had him bouncing off the furniture and walls all night! The Scotts enjoy fishing, boating, their grandchildren, Quigley (most of the time), reading, playing Hand & Foot with Laurie Blitsch in the evenings, and socializing with other camp hosts. The Tuesday game night at the Greenway was Carolyn's idea. She is also the instigator of the Easy Recipe section of the newsletter. Carolyn and Wes will be here until spring, as will Quigley, if he learns to behave himself. Maryan Pharo has said she would snatch him at first chance, so be forewarned!



submitted by Nan Hephner

Volunteer News Coming & Goings

* Peter & Nancy Hardy are leaving around the end of December. The trail work they have done this year is greatly appreciated.
* Pat Rhodes and Keven Ward have been doing some much needed upkeep along our fishing lagoons and have been placing protective hardware cloth on the surrounding Cottonwood trees in an effort to thwart beaver damage.
* Paul Grove & Indigo Cantor (new to us this year) have recently joined the Dead Horse team and will be helping with fieldwork over the next couple of months.

Dates to Remember January

1 - New Years Day
12 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway
26 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway
Tuesdays - 6:30 Gamenight, Greenway
bring snack, beverage, game, learn a new one
Please Note: The first Wednesday of every month is Senior Day at Fry's, with 10% off your purchases.

January Milestones (Birthdays & Anniversaries)

1-Bob Ross
4-Justin Swiger
5-Jim Aker
8-Roger McCartney
12-Gary & Sharon Munson (2001)
14-Nan & Norm Hephner (1983)
19-Ken & Gigi House
20-Frank & Rose Larramore (1974)
24-George Gilbert
25-Barb & Dave Penny (1964)
26-Carol Barringer
28-Bernie Munson
30-Kathy Appling

Correction to Dec Newsletter: baby Nathan Buzonas was born on Nov 7

*As of January 1, 2010 we will have a new e-mail address (psanor@gmail.com). We will no longer have our earthlink address.
Tom & Pam Sanor
sanor@earthlink.net*

Nan Hephner asked me to mention in the newsletter that if anyone wants an email copy of their original photo from the newsletter to let her know at mokicat@earthlink.net, and she will send it to them.

A Note From The Manager

I trust everyone is having a merry Christmas this very special season. Thanks to everyone who chose to spend their Christmas volunteering at DHRSP and helped with George's farewell and the Christmas party at Randall's. George and his beautiful family will be missed. I know we all wish them the very best as he takes the reins as Manager of Lyman Lake SP. Justin Swiger was recently promoted to Ranger IV and will be our new Assistant Manager. Many of you have already expressed your satisfaction with the choice. I have no doubt that Justin is up to the task. I'm looking forward to a great new year complete with the challenges that are sure to come. Together we will prevail over the economic hardships we have endured this year.

*Just a note of greatest & deepest thanks & gratitude for sending me the DHRSP newsletters every month. I do appreciate your thoughtfulness! I heard from someone there, Carolyn Meehan & Trish Muchler are moving to Florida. I wish & hope for a Happy, Healthy, Joyous, & Blessed New Year.
Take Care, Bonnie Moore*

OK I guess the cat is out of the bag... Trish and I have moved to Florida, BUT I will not stop sending the newsletters out to all our volunteers at DHRSP. I love you guys! Send any written information or pictures to Carolyn Meehan, 124 Lake Constance Dr, West Palm Beach, FL 33411 AND any email correspondence to carolynmeehan@comcast.net.

Easy Recipes

Mandarin Salad from Laurie Blitsch
Laurie's Mandarin Salad

1/2 cup almonds and 3 TBLS sugar,
carmalize the two
Romaine lettuce, green onion
11-ounce can of mandarin oranges

Dressing:

1/2 TSP salt
3 TBLS sugar
Dash pepper
1/4 cup vegetable oil
1 TBLS chopped fresh parsley
2 TBLS red wine vinegar
Dash Tabasco

Mix dressing ingredients together and drizzle over salad.
Please submit your easy recipes for one or two to Carolyn at carolynmeehan@comcast.net or to Nan at mokicat@earthlink.net for the next newsletter. Thanks in advance!



Maxine Bean accepted a dozen roses for her more than 6,000 hours of volunteer service to Dead Horse Ranch State Park. Behind her are DH manager Les Bovee, and volunteer coordinator Ranger Eric Buzonas. Maxine has been volunteering longer than anyone else at the park.

*DEC Volunteer Newsletter for DEHO posted to the following referenced page:
<http://azstateparks.com/Parks/DEHO/volunteer.html> great job Carolyn! thanks for the copy. Tye R Farrell, Web Developer*

Florence McCormick, widow of former Volunteer Al McCormick, asked to pass along her best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to the volunteers & rangers at DHRSP.



Wanda Ward received roses from Manager Les Bovee (behind the bouquet) and Kayla Peralta, for her more than 5,000

hours of volunteer service at DHRSP. Karlee Swiger looks on (lower left).

Les Bovee, DHRSP manager, congratulates Justin Swiger who has been named the assistant manager at DHRSP. His promotion became effective Dec 12.

